

Message Text

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ACTION PPTE-00

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R 241235Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3564

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

UNCLAS ALGIERS 3770

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CPAS, CASC (FANTE, JOHN V. AKA GARBAN, GARY J.)

SUBJECT: GARBAN/FANTE AND VISIT OF GROVER T. WICKERSHAM

REF: A) STATE 266023, B) ALGIERS 3324, C) STATE 272419

1. MR. GROVER WICKERSHAM, A LAW STUDENT AT UNIV. OF CALIF., BERKELEY, ACTING ON BEHALF FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF JOHN V. FANTE, AKA GARY GARBAN, VISITED ALGERIA WEEK OF DEC. 15. WICKERSHAM APPARENTLY ASSOCIATED WITH SAN FRANCISCO LAW FIRM OF HANNA, BROPHY, MACLEAN, MCALEER AND JENSEN, AND OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN RONALD DELLUMS. STATED PURPOSE OF TRIP THREEFOLD: TO OBTAIN WRITTEN STATEMENT FROM GRABAN/FANTE, IN ACCORDANCE PRIVACY ACT, AUTHORIZING DEPARTMENT TO RELEASE INFORMATION TO WICKERSHAM AND JAMES BURCHELL OF HANNA AND BROPHY (REF. B); TO SEE PRISONER WHO HAS APPARENTLY ALARMED FRIENDS AND FAMILY WITH REPORTS OF PRISON CONDITIONS (SEPTTEL); TO DISCUSS PLANS WITH GARBAN/FANTE, INCLUDING LETTER WRITING CAMPAIGN, AIMED AT OBTAINING EARLY RELEASE.

2. IN TALKS WITH WICKERSHAM, HE AT FIRST HINTED AT KNOWING GARBAN'S REAL IDENTITY, BUT ONLY SPOKE OF FANTE AFTER VISIT TO PRISON. EMBASSY ITSELF HAS NECESSARILY PROCEEDED WITH CAUTION IN DISCUSSING IDENTITY ISSUE GIVEN LACK OF GUIDANCE FROM DEPARTMENT (REF B., PARA 3). EMBASSY IN RECEIPT COPY OF LETTER OF DEC. 9 FROM BURCHELL TO SCA/SCS INFORMING UNCLASSIFIED

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DEPARTMENT OF WICKERSHAM INTEREST IN CASE AND FACT

HE AWARE OF REL IDENTITY.

3. EMBASSY HAS NOT YET OFFICIALLY INFORMED GOA OF REAL IDENTITY GARY GARBAN AND REVOCATION HIS PASSPORT. WILL DO SO AFTER RECEIPT OM PROMISED REF. A AND C. IN ANY CASE EMBASSY NOTIFICATION LARGELY ACADEMIC SINCE ALGERIAN SURETE HAS ALREADY BEEN ADVISED OF GARBAN IDENTITY BY DEA, RBAT NOV. 14. (SEE RABAT 5540 OF NOV. 14, 1975 TO DEA HEADQUARTERS). DEA ASKED SURETE TO HAND PASSPORT OVER TO EMBASSY; THEY HAVE NOT YET DONE SO. WE ARE UNAWARE OF ANY CHARGES BEING MADE OR CONTEMPLATED ON PASSPORT ISSUE AT THIS TIME.

4. GARBAN'S LAWYER AND MINISTRY OF JUSTICE OFFICIALS THINK CHANCES OF AMERICANS RECEIVING AMNESTY, OR ANY OTHER FORM OF EARLY RELEASE, IS NOT OUT OF THE QUESTION. ALL AGREE, HOWEVER, IT STILL TOO EARLY TO EXPECT SUCH A DECISION.

5. EMBASSY HAS STATEMENT FROM GARBAN/FANTE AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF INFORMATION ON CASE TO GROVER WICKERSHAM AND JAMES BURCHELL AND SIGNED QUOTE GARY GARBAN AKA JOHN V. FANTE UNQUOTE. ASSUMING MORE CORRESPONDENCE LIKELY TO BE RECEIVED REQUESTING INFORMATION ABOUT SUBJECT, AND PARTICULARLY WHETHER EMBASSY HAS INFORMED GOA OF IDENTITY, DOES THIS CONSTITUTE AUTHORIZATION FOR POST TO RELEASE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN ITS FILES ABOUT JOHN FANTE? DEPARTMENT PLEASE ADVISE.PARKER

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